



CALPEEK

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P.O. BOX 1468, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90213 (310) 659-0205
Dick Rosengarten, Publisher

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THE WAR OVER "3 STRIKES" - POLICY OR POLITICS?

Editor's note: As CALPEEK noted last week, crime is Calif.'s hot political issue for 1994. With the State Legislature back in session, all eyes are focused on one particular subject --- keeping violent offenders behind bars using the so-called "3 Strikes" approach. Here is CALPEEK's brief update & analysis...

...Up front, Gov. Pete Wilson(R), State Treasurer Kathleen Brown(D) and AG Dan Lungren(R) all say they support the "3 Strikes & You're Out" initiative by Fresno businessman Mike Reynolds. But that's just 1994 politics. Behind the scenes cooler heads are drafting a "3 Strikes" bill that will satisfy not only voters and politicians, but DAs, police chiefs, sheriffs and cops on the beat. The bill to accomplish this is AB 1568, authored by Assemblyman Richard Rainey(R), the former sheriff of Contra Costa County...

...The Legislature is now divided into two(2) camps: those who support the original Reynolds "3 Strikes" initiative and those who support Rainey's AB 1568. Assemblyman Bill Jones(R-Fresno) is Reynolds' chief supporter and even carried the Reynolds language in a bill that failed to win Assembly Public Safety Cmt. support last summer. There is now movement to put the Jones/Reynolds language onto the June 1994 ballot to let the people decide this issue. Assembly Speaker Willie Brown seemed to favor this approach as he spoke to reporters this past week. But make no mistake, Rainey's bill is the one to watch...

...It is picking up *significant* support. The CA State Sheriffs Assn., the CA DAs Assn. and PORAC are now signed on as co-sponsors and AB 1568 is getting good bipartisan support too. The reason why sheriffs such as L.A. Co.'s Sherman Block are opposed to the Reynolds initiative is because of *costs*. Under Reynolds, a violent felon's 3rd offense can be any kind of felony --- violent

or non-violent --- and that's all it takes to be locked up in prison for life, thus flooding CA's already crowded prisons and jails. Rainey's bill makes a distinction between the felony offenses. In addition, the Rainey bill is much tougher on violent felons --- with **no time off** for good behavior, even for 1st time offenders. More next week. Stay tuned...

40th S.D. UPDATE: GOP BLAME GAME BEGINS IN WAKE OF DEMO STEVE PEACE'S WIN IN SPECIAL.

Editor's note: Although this Dec. 28th special election is already in the books and Demo Assemblyman Steve Peace of Chula Vista is the Senator-elect, here is an update & analysis you'll find very interesting...

...San Diego Co. Republicans are mad as hell that their candidate Joe Ghougassian got clobbered on election day and lost the 40th S.D. seat to Demo Steve Peace. They are so mad that they are now looking around for scapegoats. And guess who's at the top of the HIT list? None other than Gov. Pete Wilson...

...What really puzzles San Diego GOPers is how Peace managed to win the endorsement of the San Diego Union-Tribune, a very crucial endorsement which some Republicans think helped swing the election to Peace. Peace defeated Ghougassian by a 53% to 47% margin. It's the first time that the U-T has **ever endorsed** Peace in all the years he's been in the CA Assembly. And with Ghougassian, you've got a former Reagan Admin. ambassador, pro-business Republican who fits the Copley mold. So what happened???

...As CALPEEK hinted last week, if Ghougassian had won, there are some who think this win might have cost Sen. Ken Maddy his job as GOP Senate Leader (with Sen. Rob Hurtt the victor) --- and that might have spelled *bad news* for Wilson in this very important election

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year. Maddy is a close Wilson ally, whereas there are some questions about Hurtt and his relationship with the governor. It's for this reason that some Republican sources in San Diego have suggested (but there's no proof) that Wilson operatives persuaded the big Copley paper to endorse Peace. Remember, Wilson still has lots of clout in San Diego and so this scenario isn't as far fetched as one might think...

...CALPEEK sources say the Ghougassian campaign was told early on that they would end up with the U-T endorsement, only to learn later on that the paper had *shifted to neutral*. And Ghougassian was as surprised as anyone when the paper endorsed Peace --- as were lots of Republicans --- and even Peace. Like we said, there are no fingerprints, it's just a scenario that some GOP types are talking about...

...No word yet as to when Peace will assume his new job as State Senator of the 40th S.D. in San Diego Co. Best guess is that the S.D. Co. Registrar will certify the election Jan. 12th and then Peace will resign from the assembly on or about that date. Once Peace resigns, Wilson has 14 days to call a special election to fill Peace's 79th A.D. seat. Under the 1992 remapping plan, this is one of those districts where Republicans need not apply...

...The Demo primary for the 79th will probably include David Valladolid, an aide to Speaker Willie Brown; Chula Vista Mayor Tim Nader; S.D. community college trustee Denise Ducheny; and perhaps black newspaper publisher John Warren, who ran against Peace in the 40th S.D. special. Other Demo names to surface include S.D. school board member Shirley Webber and James Wilburn, who ran against Peace in the Demo primary in 1992. Stay tuned...

TRANSPORTATION TOPIC FOR L.A. AFFAIRS FORUM.

"Getting the Most From Our Transportation Dollars" is the topic of a panel discussion Jan. 21 sponsored by L.A. Current Affairs Forum. Panelists include Assembly Transp. Cmt. Chair Richard Katz(D); Claremont Councilmember Judy Wright, a member of the So. CA Regional Rail Authority; Edward McSpedon, president of the Rail Construction Corp.; and Antonio Villaraigosa, alternate member of the MTA. 7:45 a.m. breakfast; program runs from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Hyatt Regency Hotel, L.A. For info & RSVPs, call Emma Schafer (310)445-8862...

ROBERTI RECALL ADVOCATES TURN IN PETITIONS.

As CALPEEK hit deadline on Jan. 5th, sources say that petitions with more than 25,000 signatures requesting a **recall** election of State Sen. David Roberti(D-Van Nuys) were to be turned over to the L.A. Co. Registrar's office for counting. Deadline for turning in petitions was Jan. 6th. Earlier, some 17,489 signatures had already been turned in. Thus the total number of raw signatures is more than 42,000. To qualify, the recall needs 20,670 valid signatures. According to the registrar, of the 17,489 signatures already turned in, 10,049 names have been declared *valid*...

...If there are enough valid signatures, and proponents don't see how they could miss this time, it would force a recall election in the midst of Roberti's attempt to run for State Treasurer. In fact, a recall election might be called on the same day as the June 7th primary. Yes, Roberti could do both, but it could get complicated. Of course, Roberti could screw up the recall proponents by resigning his senate seat early, thus making the recall election meaningless. But then there'd have to be a special election to fill his unexpired term...

...The recall was organized under the umbrella group called Coalition To Restore Government Integrity, with the lead group in this coalition being Californians Against Corruption. Although CAC is concerned about violations of all constitutional amendments, they are very big on the 2nd amendment. In other words, CAC members are very much pro-GUN, meaning Roberti is *persona non grata*, especially since he was a co-author of the law banning assault weapons. Stay tuned...

NUMEROUS CALIF. JUDGES FACE VOTERS IN 1994.

Editor's note: Here is CALPEEK's very brief report on *judicial branch elections* in 1994...

...With all the talk about the race for governor, the U.S. Senate contest and the battle for control of the Calif. Legislature, *almost overlooked* but not totally forgotten are the judicial races. On Nov. 8th of this year, voters will have to decide whether or not to reconfirm two CA Supreme Court Associates Justices, Joyce L. Kennard and Ronald M. George. In addition, voters will have to confirm or reject a replacement for Justice Edward Panelli, who is to resign this month. Kennard is a moderate who was appointed by former Gov. George Deukmejian, while George is an appointee of

current Gov. Pete Wilson. Political consultant Joe Cerrell, who specializes in judicial elections, sees no problems for either justice in 1994...

...That's not to say that the CA Supreme Court and its Chief Justice, Malcolm Lucas, don't have political enemies. They do. It no secret that the Demo controlled Legislature slashed the judicial branch budget this past year -- partly in retaliation for the court's ruling upholding Prop. 140 - term limits, and for its reapportionment plan. But it's not expected that Assembly Speaker Willie Brown will take his disagreements with the court out on either Kennard or George...

...In addition to the two high court justices, some 46 appellate court justices also face voters in 1994. Voters will cast ballots on these jurists by district. There are six districts in Calif.'s system. And of course there are hundreds of judicial candidates and incumbents vying for municipal and superior court seats. Stay tuned...

LONG BEACH MAYOR'S RACE: WILL ERNIE KELL BE ABLE TO PULL OFF ANOTHER WIN IN 1994???

Editor's note: With a population of 423,000, Long Beach is Calif.'s 5th largest city. On April 12th, the city will hold its municipal election where incumbent Mayor Ernie Kell faces a strong field of challengers. Here is our first report on this race...

...For many years Kell was the appointed mayor of Long Beach, but then the charter was changed and the office became elective. Kell's first elective run for mayor was in 1988, when he got 60% against Jan Hall. Two years later, Kell was narrowly reelected in a tough campaign against Councilman Tom Clark...

...This time Kell has 12 challengers, but only 5 are considered serious opponents. They include Councilmembers Ray Grabinski and Jeffrey Kellogg; business execs Don Westerland and Frank Colonna; and Beverly O'Neill, past president of the LB Community College. All have hired professional campaign consultants. Grabinski has hired Bragg, Maddox & Taylor; Kellogg has hired Sheingold & Assoc.; Westerland has retained Adler-Wilson Campaign Services; Colonna's team includes Englander, Wooldridge et al, pollster Arnold Steinberg and media consultant Dan Blackburn; and O'Neill has retained Skelton-Grover & Assoc. No

word on Kell's team, but he's already mailed a 4-color tabloid to all Long Beach voters...

...With such a big and credible field of challengers, it's a given that there will be a June 7th runoff. The question is whether Kell still has the resources and voter base to make a runoff? Many sources say he does, but there is not total agreement on this point...

...Like other big cities, Long Beach too has a crime problem and CALPEEK readers may recall that for a period of time the city hired the sheriff's dept. to patrol one section of the city. They're gone now, but the handling of this situation by the city has created tension among the rank & file of the LBPD. Then there's the Spruce Goose(it's gone) and the Queen Mary (it's in financial trouble) and the billion dollar Disney deal (it fell through) --- and lots of people are pointing at Kell. All these things may not be his fault, but it happened on his watch. More in the weeks ahead. Stay tuned...

CALPEEK's '94 CONSULTANTS DIRECTORY ON SALE

CALPEEK's 1994 Directory of Campaign Consultants is now for sale to subscribers and non-subscribers alike. Cost for CALPEEK subscribers is just \$10, while the cost to non-subscribers is \$40. The directory will be given away FREE with all new subscriptions. No invoicing, no credit cards - checks only. For info call (310)659-0205. This directory is sold via subscription only. No retail sales. Stay tuned...

1994: UPDATE ON RUN FOR STATEWIDE OFFICES

Editor's note: Lots of activity as well as odds & ends to report. Here's CALPEEK's update...

● **U.S. Senate** - Demo incumbent U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein has assembled her campaign reelection team for 1994. Once again, savvy consultant Kam Kawata will act as overall campaign director and Bill Carrick will once again handle media/tv. Garin-Hart will do polling, while Priscilla Burton will be DiFi's fundraising director...

● **Lt. Governor** - Is GOP candidate Sonny Bono still interested in the LG's post now that U.S. Rep. Al McCandless(R-La Quinta) has announced his retirement? Remember, Bono wanted to run for McCandless's job

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in congress before he started looking at LG. Sources confirm he's taking a second look...

...And add yet another name to those who might be looking at this office on the GOP side --- Joel Fox, president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn. How does Fox do in a poll with Bono, Assemblyman Stan Statham and Sen. Cathie Wright? He wins with 23.5%, Bono gets 15.1%, Wright gets 11.3%, Statham gets 5% and there are 45% undecided. This was a mid-December poll by Arnold Steinberg...

- **Controller** - BoE Chair Brad Sherman(D) claims to have \$540,000 *cash-on-hand* as of 12/31/93. That should make him fairly competitive going into what shapes up as a very interesting Demo primary. Yes, a large chunk of cash in Sherman's controller warchest is from his family, and yes, he still has a fairly hefty deficit left over from his BoE race of 1990 --- but the bottom-line is that he ended 1993 in better shape than many had expected...

...L.A. business executive Kathleen Connell is a relative newcomer to the Democratic Party. Connell lived in NY during much of the 1980s. When she moved back to L.A. in 1988, she registered as an independent. On Sept. 2, 1992, Connell changed her registration to the Demo Party...

- **BoE - 4th District** - With incumbent BoE Chair Brad Sherman(D) running for controller and BoE member Matt Fong(R) running for treasurer, this open seat with a heavy Demo registration is beginning to attract a good field of candidates. The 4th District takes in most of L.A. Co. Best known of those running is former Assemblyman Dave Elder(D-Long Beach), who served 14 years in the Assembly and was generally regarded as being an able lawmaker. Elder has hired Englander, Wooldridge et al to run his campaign. Inglewood Mayor Ed Vincent(D) is also running and has hired Bragg, Maddox & Taylor. And then there's Valerie Salkin of West Hollywood, who is a deputy to Sherman. She's a tax attorney and claims to have raised more than \$103,000 --- so far, and has hired The Primacy Group to run her campaign. She's also hired fundraising consultant Jill Govan. Salkin is very savvy on BoE issues may surprise a number of Demos...

CA INITIATIVE UPDATE: MEASURES GIVEN OKAY.

Editor's note: The CA Sec. of State's office has given the OK for a number of new initiatives to begin collecting signatures. In order make the June 7th ballot, initiatives need to qualify by Jan. 27th. To make the Nov. 8th ballot, initiatives must qualify by June 30th...

...FYI: The "pay at the pump" auto insurance measure has been pulled by its author, Andrew Tobias, due to lack of support and a growing opposition under the banner of Californians to Save Our Economy. In addition, it's unlikely that many of the new initiatives coming from the AG's office with Title & Summary will have kind of funding necessary to make the November 1994 ballot --- meaning a lean year instead of a big year for initiatives. Here are some new initiatives that are now in circulation...

- **"Taxes: Beer, Distilled Spirits. Allocation of Funds,"** is the official title of a constitutional amendment to hike the State tax on beer and hard liquor, but wine is exempted. Funds from this surtax would be used to reduce the fees, costs and tuition of students going to UC, State University and community college schools. Some of the money also would be used to support courts, local government and a whole range of medical services. The proponent is Richard Millian of Taxpayers Against Deficits. He can be reached at (714)837-2013. He has until May 13 to collect 615,958 signatures...

- **"Marijuana,"** is the official title of this statute that would legalize the personal use of pot for persons over 21. The proponents are Jack Herer and Christopher P.M. Conrad (818)377-5787. They have until May 18 to submit 384,974 signatures...

- **"Prostitution Prohibition,"** is the official title of this constitutional amendment that appears to be aimed at banning the sale or broadcast of porn movies or porn videotapes. The proponent is Lisa Marie Abato of the Holly Rider Commission (310)288-8207. This group has until May 18 to submit 615,958 signatures...

